

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a radially expandable externally grooved tubular fastener from metal, comprising the steps of:

providing a suitable tubular blank having a tubular wall;

and squeezing the tubular wall between ~~an internal member~~ a support pin with a surface which engages the internal tubular wall face of the blank and a plurality of external members provided with suitably shaped surfaces engaging the external tubular wall face of the blank; thereby to form grooves on the external tubular wall face of the blank;

in which the squeezing is achieved by the effective decrease in diameter of the external members which are engaged with the external tubular wall face of the blank; and in which the external members are closed on to the external wall face of the tubular blank to form grooves thereon and then remain in the same spatial relationship with each other until they are withdrawn to release the blank, and wherein the internal tubular wall face of the blank is prevented from moving radially inwardly by the support pin.

14. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 13, in which the squeezing is achieved by both the effective increase in diameter of the engagement of the ~~internal tubular member~~ support pin with the internal tubular wall face of the blank and the effective decrease in the

diameter of engagement of the suitably shaped surfaces of the external members with the external tubular wall face of the blank.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 13, in which the external members when closed on to the external tubular wall face of the blank form grooves thereon and also form a plurality of radially extending protrusions thereon.
16. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 15, in which the external members are closed on to the external tubular wall face of the blank so as to leave a space between each member and the next, thereby to accommodate the protrusions from the grooves.
17. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, in which the opposed walls of adjacent external members which define the spaces between them also assist in forming the protrusions.
18. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 14, in which the external members are first progressively closed on to the external tubular wall face of the blank to as to engage it and at least partially form grooves in it, and the ~~internal member~~ support pin engages the internal tubular wall face of the blank with an increasing diameter, thereby to assist in the formation of the grooves.

19. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 14, in which the ~~internal member~~ support pin has an external diameter which varies along its length, and is moved axially with respect to the tubular blank thereby to increase the diameter which engages the internal tubular wall face of the blank as aforesaid.
20. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 13, in which the grooves on the external tubular wall face of the blank are in the form of circumferential grooves.
21. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 13, in which the grooves on the external tubular wall face of the blank are in the form of a screw thread.
22. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 13, in which the grooves on the external tubular wall of the blank are in the form of longitudinal grooves.
23. (Cancelled)
24. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a radially expandable externally grooved tubular fastener from metal, comprising the steps of:
providing a suitable tubular blank having a tubular wall;

and squeezing the tubular wall between ~~an internal member~~ a support pin with a surface which engages the internal tubular wall face of the blank and a plurality of external members provided with suitably shaped surfaces engaging the external tubular wall face of the blank; thereby to form grooves on the external tubular wall face of the blank;

in which the ~~internal member~~ support pin engages the internal tubular wall of the blank at an unchanging diameter, and the external members are progressively closed on to the external wall face of the tubular blank to form grooves thereon and are then withdrawn from engagement with the external tubular wall face of the blank thereby to release the grooved blank,

wherein the external members when closed on to the external tubular wall face of the blank form grooves thereon and also form a plurality of radially extending protrusions thereon, and wherein the internal tubular wall face of the blank is prevented from moving radially inwardly by the support pin.

and in which the external members are closed on to the external tubular wall face of the blank so as to leave a space between each member and the next, thereby to accommodate the protrusions from the grooves.